The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers Urges for Innovative Teaching Programs to Increase Student Retention

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC, November 12, 2004 – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is calling for the revitalization of Core French programs through changes that focus on high school interest topics and oral communication skills. This statement is in response to the release of the Canadian Parents for French 2004 Annual State of French Second Language Report.

More than 85% of French second language students are enrolled in Core French while only 16.5% of high school students complete their French graduation requirements.

"Student retention and success in French as a second language will only improve with the development of alternative and innovative teaching practices and programs," states Susan Forward, CASLT Spokesperson. "Newfoundland has taken the initiative in piloting programs such as intensive and extended French. This program increases the proficiency expectations that exist in most courses, alternating student-centered high school courses with practical units that focus on French for work or travel."

In addition, the Canadian Parents for French report raises the issue of the need to improve working conditions for French teachers. Developments should include a teacher competence profile that outlines minimum training requirements, language proficiency and competency.

"We appreciate the acknowledgement of the work of Canadian French educators in the development of alternate Core French models," affirms Forward.

CASLT remains dedicated to working with our partners to better provide a cohesive voice on second language issues across Canada.

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